

# PAI-A PROFILES & ASSOCIATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONAL MISCONDUCT AMONG YOUTHS IN A MILITARY-STYLE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

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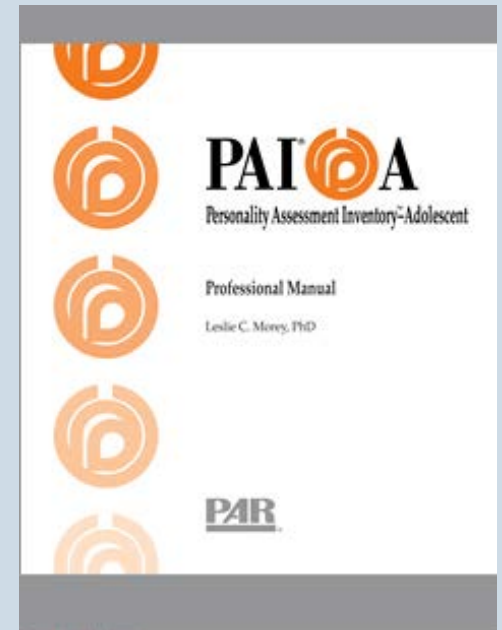
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# The PAI-A (Morey, 2007)

- The Personality Assessment Inventory–Adolescent (PAI–A) is a self-report objective personality and psychopathology measure designed to assess adolescents ages 12-18
- Comparable to instrument for adults, the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI; Morey, 1991)
- Covers a wide range of personality and psychopathology, has scales to detect problematic response styles
- Relative lack of empirical research involving PAI-A in the literature



# The PAI-A

- 264 items
- 4 validity scales
- 11 clinical scales
- 5 treatment consideration scales
- 2 interpersonal scales

# Background

- Previous research with adult offenders suggests that antisocial features, borderline features, and aggression are all related to institutional misconduct (Buffington-Vollum, Edens, Johnson, & Johnson, 2002; Caperton, Edens, & Johnson, 2004; Gardner, Boccaccini, Bitting, & Edens, 2015; Newberry & Shuker, 2012; Skopp, Edens, & Ruiz, 2007; Walters, Duncan, & Geyer, 2011; Warren et al., 2002)
- Less research has been conducted with juvenile offenders, but there is evidence that these same traits relate to their institutional misconduct (Bauer, Whitman, & Kosson, 2011; Caldwell, McCormick, Wolfe, & Umstead, 2012; Edens & Campbell, 2005; Marsee et al., 2011; Stafford & Cornell, 2003; Taylor, Skubic Kemper, & Kistner, 2007)
- Similar associations may be found among at-risk youths in diversion programs

# Military-style residential programs

- Aim to divert youths from more severely delinquent/criminal pathways
- Evidence of positive changes in attitudes and behaviors, though the effects on recidivism are mixed (MacKenzie, Wilson, & Kider, 2001; Meade & Steiner, 2010)
- Juvenile offenders with poorer institutional adjustment (e.g., more disciplinary infractions) are more likely to engage in recidivism (Mulder, Brand, Bullens, & van Marle, 2011; Trulson, DeLisi, & Marquart, 2011).

# The current study

- Participants for this study were recruited from a military-style residential program located in the southeastern United States to participate in a program evaluation project
- Youths can be referred by families, schools, justice system
- 22-week program offers high school and college-level courses, vocational training, physical training, and discipline

# Hypotheses

- Elevations on the Antisocial Features (ANT) and Drug Problems (DRG) scales relative to normative sample
- Elevations on scales associated with dysregulation and externalizing behaviors (e.g., Borderline Features [BOR], Mania [MAN], Aggression [AGG])
- ANT, AGG, BOR will positively relate to number of institutional infractions

# Participants

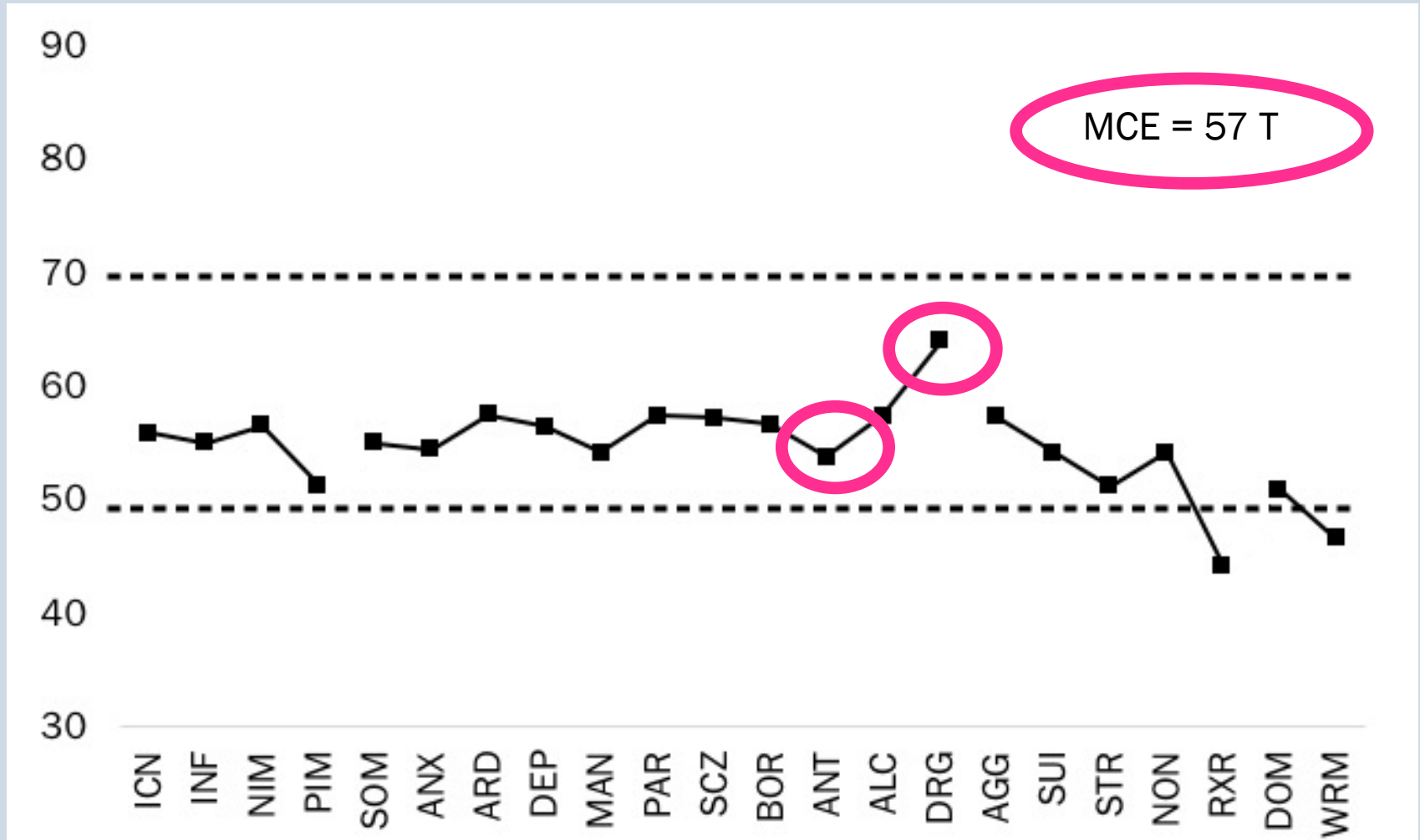
- 443 program participants who completed a PAI-A between February 2016 and December 2017
- 122 youths (27.5%) were excluded due to concerns about data validity
- Final sample of 321 adolescents
  - $M_{age} = 16.74, SD = 0.7$
  - Majority male (79%)
  - 62% Caucasian/30% African American/8% Other



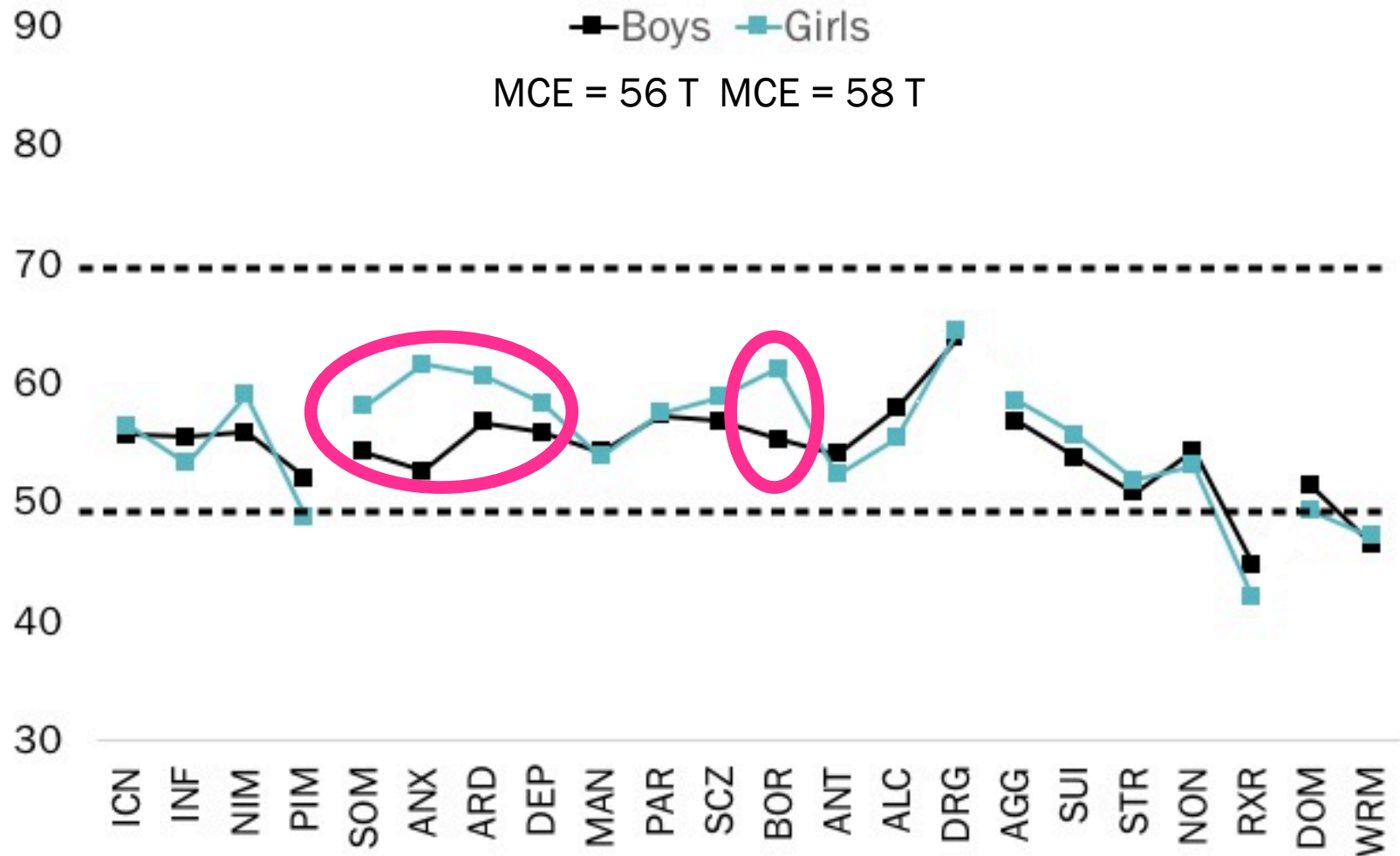
# Procedures

- PAI-A completed in weeks 4-6 of the 22-week program
- Information about disciplinary infractions was collected from files after program completion

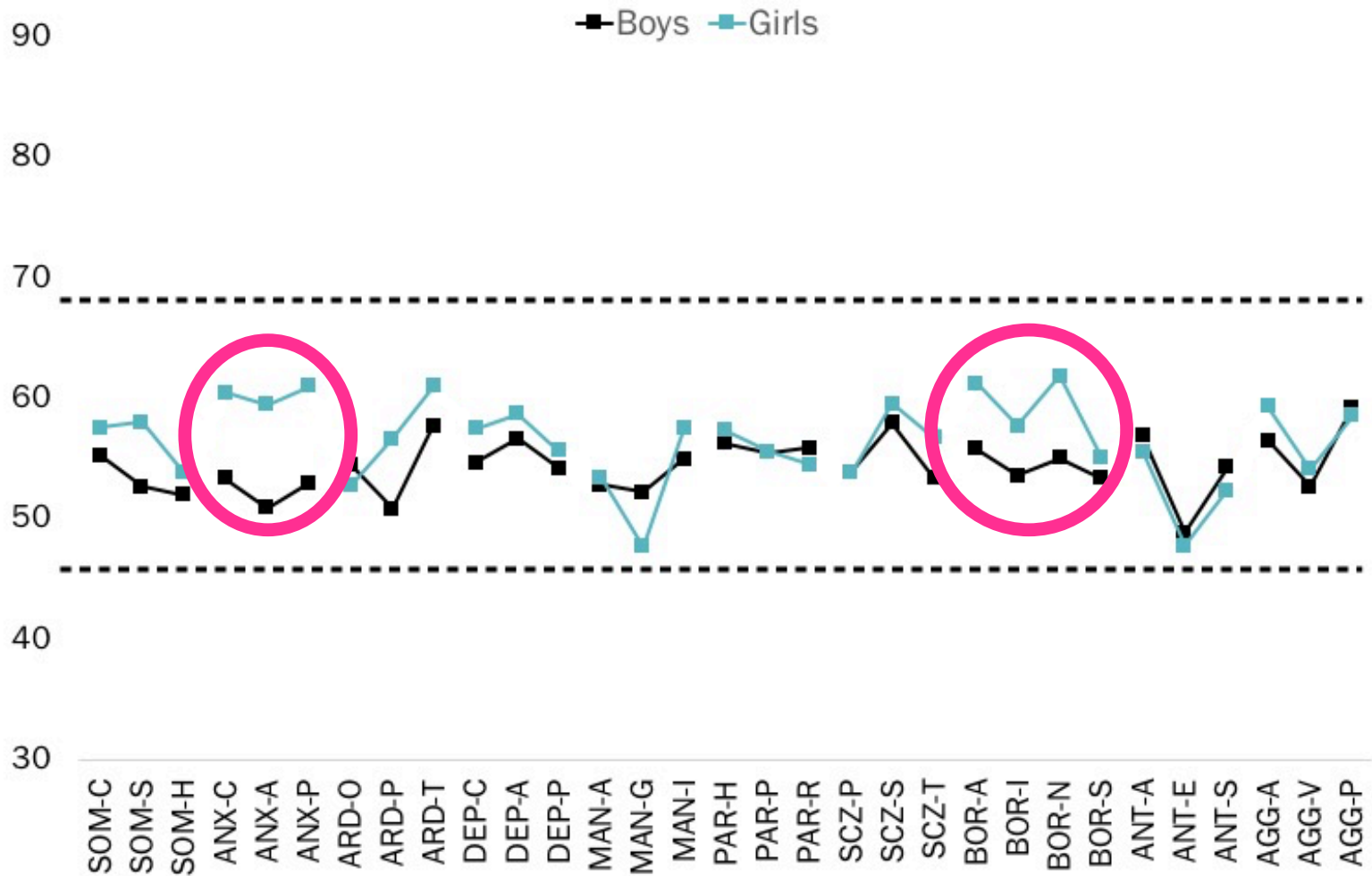
# Sample Means



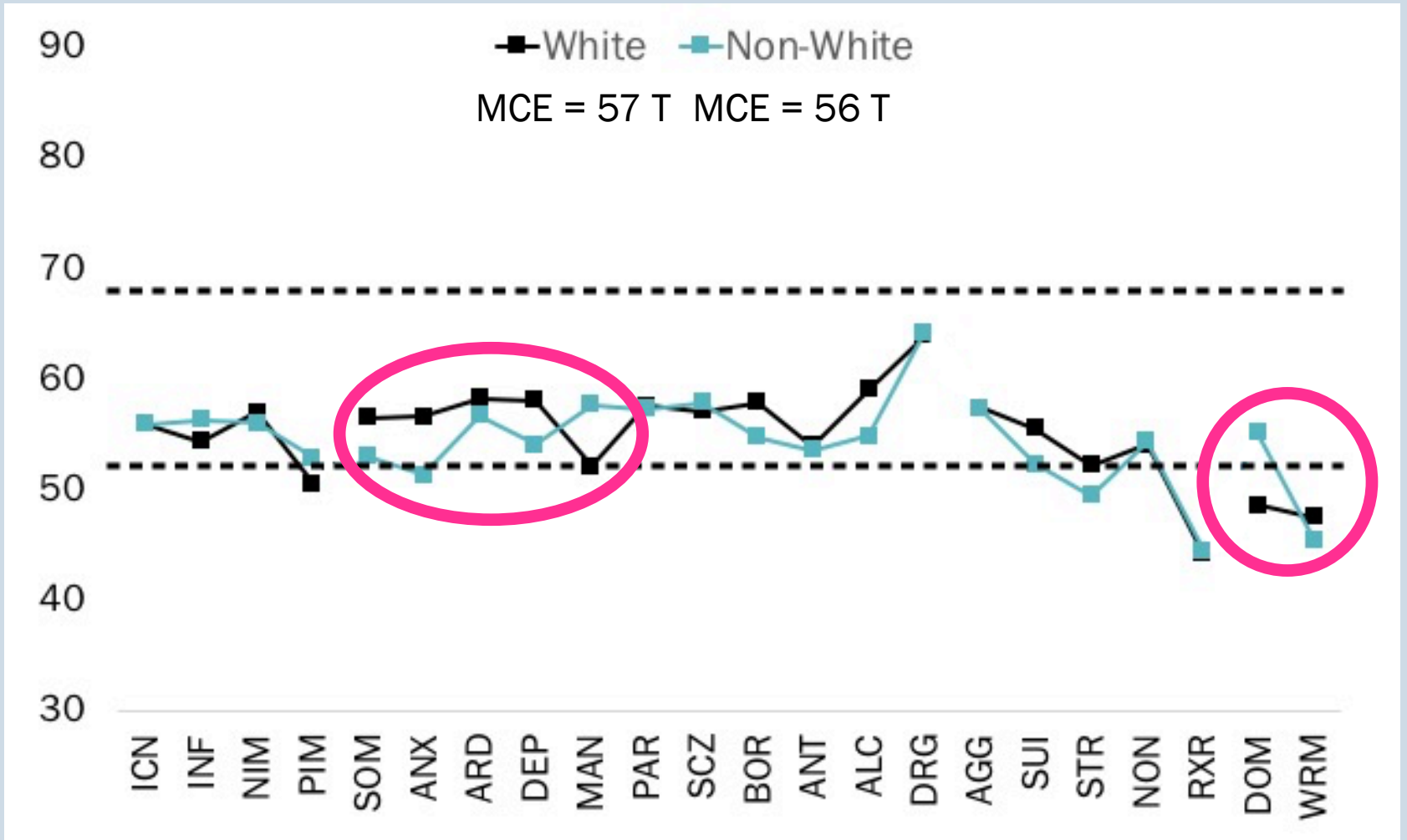
# Boys vs. Girls



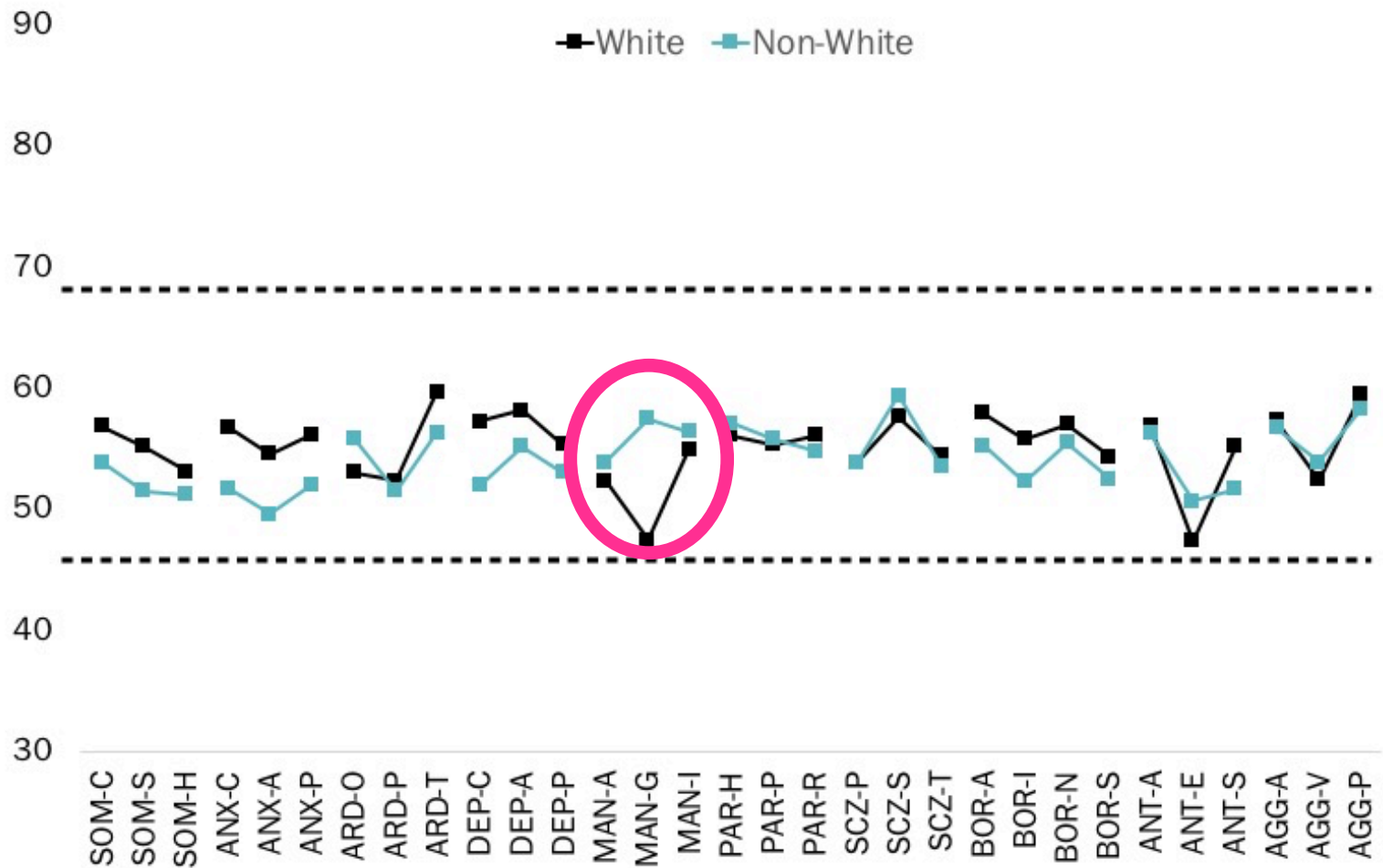
# Boys vs. Girls



# White vs. Non-White



# White vs. Non-White



# Disciplinary infractions

- Complete disciplinary records recorded for 124 youths
  - *Not significantly demographically different from total sample*
- Median of 6 infractions (range: 0-42)
  - *Physical aggression*
  - *Verbal aggression*
  - *Non-aggressive rule-breaking*

# Non-aggressive infractions

- Model including demographics and the subscales of AGG, BOR, ANT significantly predicts count of infractions for non-aggressive behaviors,  $X^2(12) = 233.56, p = .001$
- IRR- incidence rate ratio
  - *Amount of change in DV that corresponds to 1-unit increase in predictor*



# Non-aggressive infractions

	IRR	95% CI	<i>p</i>
Sex (ref male)	1.15	.876-1.521	.308
Race (ref White)	1.23	.975-1.552	.080
AGG-A	.99	.972-1.006	.186
AGG-V	1.01	.990-1.020	.524
<b>AGG-P</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>1.006-1.039</b>	<b>.008</b>
<b>BOR-A</b>	<b>.98</b>	<b>.967-.999</b>	<b>.038</b>
BOR-I	.99	.977-1.008	.351
BOR-N	1.01	.993-1.022	.294
<b>BOR-S</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>1.003-1.029</b>	<b>.015</b>
ANT-A	.99	.975-1.008	.286
ANT-E	.99	.976-1.009	.370
ANT-S	1.01	.995-1.025	.205

# Verbal aggression infractions

- Same model predicts count of infractions for verbally aggressive behaviors,  $X^2(12) = 67.14, p < .001$

# Verbal aggression infractions

	IRR	95% CI	
Sex (ref male)	<b>.70</b>	<b>.509-.948</b>	<b>.022</b>
Race (ref White)	<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.076-1.734</b>	<b>.011</b>
AGG-A	.99	.969-1.004	.132
AGG-V	1.01	.995-1.025	.191
<b>AGG-P</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>1.017-1.051</b>	<b>.000</b>
BOR-A	1.01	.995-1.028	.186
<b>BOR-I</b>	<b>.96</b>	<b>.945-.976</b>	<b>.000</b>
<b>BOR-N</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>1.009-1.039</b>	<b>.002</b>
BOR-S	.99	.979-1.003	.130
ANT-A	1.00	.979-1.012	.589
ANT-E	.99	.971-1.005	.161
ANT-S	1.00	.989-1.020	.611

# Physical aggression infractions

- Same model predicts count of infractions for physically aggressive behaviors,  $X^2(12) = 33.96, p = .001$

# Physical aggression infractions

	IRR	95% CI	<i>p</i>
<b>Sex (ref male)</b>	<b>.52</b>	<b>.305-.896</b>	<b>.018</b>
Race (ref White)	.52	.440-1.108	.127
AGG-A	.97	.941-1.006	.113
AGG-V	1.00	.976-1.029	.879
AGG-P	1.02	.990-1.053	.186
BOR-A	1.03	.997-1.061	.078
<b>BOR-I</b>	<b>.97</b>	<b>.939-.996</b>	<b>.026</b>
<b>BOR-N</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.026-1.084</b>	<b>.000</b>
<b>BOR-S</b>	<b>.98</b>	<b>.955-.998</b>	<b>.034</b>
ANT-A	.99	.960-1.020	.492
ANT-E	.98	.949-1.008	.152
ANT-S	1.03	.998-1.057	.064

# Summary

- Mean PAI-A profiles of at-risk youths in a military-style residential program
- Preliminary indications of how PAI-A scales relate to institutional infractions in this population
  - *AGG, BOR, demographics*

# Implications

- Contributes to the relatively limited empirical literature on PAI-A
- The PAI-A's utility in forensic and related settings for youths may parallel that found for the PAI with adults
  - *Research on youth personality and psychopathology*
  - *Programs are concerned about discipline issues and especially violence*

# Limitations & future directions

- Unusual sample; may not generalize well
- Infraction information incomplete
- Sex imbalance
- Future research with this population:
  - *Interactions between demographics and PAI-A*
  - *Program modifications to address results*
  - *Longer-term follow-up*



# Acknowledgements

- Research team:

Paula Floyd

Margaret Bullerjahn

Bailee Brewer

Colin Guzak

Latisha Swygert

Barbara Gipson

Amber Slaughter

Olivia Preston

Laura Hansen

- The program & participating kids

- Funding:

USM's Vice President for Research



APA Division 12, Section 3

